

AUG 17 1954

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PRIORITY

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMLEGATION HELSINKI

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

REF :

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SUBJECT: Soviet Attitude on Finnish UN Membership Application;
Miscellaneous Impressions of the USSR Reported by Diet
Speaker Fagerholm

During the course of the visit made to the Soviet Union by a delegation of Finnish Diet members headed by Diet Speaker K. A. Fagerholm press items appeared locally to the effect that at a banquet in Kiev Ukrainian Foreign Minister Paramarchuk (or Palamarchuk; both spellings have appeared locally), toasting his guests, lamented that Finland was not a United Nations member despite the fact that the Treaty of Peace with Finland looked forward to Finland's becoming a member. The local items on this subject originated with the United Press, but Reuter despatches covering the same ground did not refer to the incident. Consequently there was some editorial scepticism on the part of the Finnish press with regard to the statement attributed to Paramarchuk. But after his return on August 13 Fagerholm, in a radio talk of that day, repeated the report of the incident substantially in the terms the United Press had had.

The Legation, being interested to secure a precise formulation of what had occurred, inquired of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Eero Wuori, Chief of the Political Section, told a representative of the Legation that Fagerholm's description of what had happened ran as follows:

At the Kiev banquet Paramarchuk had indeed offered a toast during which he lamented that Finland was not a United Nations member despite the fact that the Treaty of Peace had looked forward to such membership for Finland, and he had gone on to express his regret that opposition on the part of the western powers had blocked such membership for Finland. Back in Moscow again, Fagerholm held a press conference which was attended both by Russian and Finnish journalists and by representatives of the foreign press. A United Press man had asked him whether during the course of their visit the Finnish legislators had discussed any policy matters with their hosts. Fagerholm said that they had not, that this visit had been a purely social one, as it were. The United Press man then asked in effect, what was this story about the Ukrainian Foreign Minister's having hinted at Finland's becoming a United Nations Member? Fagerholm replied that all that had happened was that the Minister, in offering a toast, had

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lamented that Finland was not a United Nations member, but that this had not been any more than a purely friendly remark. Fagerholm did not tell the pressmen about Paramarchuk's continuation to the effect that it was the western powers which had prevented Finland from becoming a member; the moment did not seem appropriate for quoting the Ukrainian Minister to that effect. (The present despatch is thus the first report on that part of the quotation which will reach the Department.) The United Press made use of the Fagerholm reply elicited by its man's query, and the Reuter agency failed to exploit the opportunity.

The Legation representative commented to Mr. Wuori that he did not recall any western powers voting against Finland's application for membership in the United Nations, to which Mr. Wuori readily agreed. Questioned further, Mr. Wuori said he did not believe the Paramarchuk statement meant the Soviet Union was contemplating any change in its position on Finland's application - Mr. Artturi Lehtinen, Finnish Consul in New York, who is Finland's United Nations observer, has recently reported that the observer of another non-member nation has told him of a talk with a member of the Soviet Delegation during which the Soviet representative confirmed the position of the USSR as being all-or-none the same as always.

(If it were practicable to unbundle the many applications now before the United Nations and cause both the General Assembly and the Security Council to consider the application of Finland alone, the Soviet Union might be hard put to it to hit upon a way of turning down the Finnish application; but here it is not certain either that the USSR under such hypothetical circumstances would very strongly wish to turn the application down, nor that the Finns would be too eager to enter the United Nations in such a limelight glare as a situation of this sort would bring upon them. The Finns are "United Nations-minded" in principle, but they realize that actual membership in the principal organs would entail for them very considerable responsibilities.)

Mr. Wuori had a few additional remarks to make on the subject of Fagerholm's visit to the Soviet Union. (It will be recalled that they are both Social Democrats of a rather liberal stamp.) Fagerholm's illness, which caused him to be hospitalized for two days in the Kremlin, where he got excellent attention, is believed to have been occasioned by a very miscellaneous soup which contained some ingredient not in itself necessary suspect, but to which Fagerholm is allergic. Fagerholm has had this happen to him before but he does not know what article of food causes it. Fagerholm's health, however, came back to normal and was well sustained, as the following further anecdote shows. Mr. Wuori referred to the special talent of USSR Foreign Trade Minister Mikoyan for hospitality and said that his Politburo has evidently had him specialize in this function. At a banquet to Chou En-lai on the latter's homeward passage through Moscow Fagerholm was seated at the head table with Malenkov, Khrushchev, and the rest,

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including Mikoyan. Mikoyan thrust upon Fagerholm a drinking competition - the Finnish Speaker being no weakling either. According to Fagerholm it "ended in a draw" not, as would probably have been the case had two Westerners been involved, with both competitors under the table, but when "both of them switched to wine".

Finally, Wuori reported Fagerholm as saying, in response to Wuori's particular inquiry on the point, that there was no sign that other members of the Politburo or even persons of slightly lower rank paid any particular deference to Malenkov and/or Khrushchev.

For the Minister:

H. Bartlett Wells

H. Bartlett Wells
First Secretary of Legation

cc: AmEmbassy Moscow.
AmEmbassy London.
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